

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8159

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 14559

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MOPS, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH LON NOL

1. DURING CALL ON LON NOL BY EA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MILLER, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR DEAN, LON NOL MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. HE WAS FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE INTENSE EFFORT BY JAPAN AND OTHER FRIENDLY ASIAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS BY THE US TO ASSURE VICTORY ON THE KHMER CREDENTIALS QUESTION IN THE UN. HE REQUESTED THAT HIS SINCERE THANKS BE FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY AND OTHERS IN USG FOR THIS EFFORT.

B. HE INTENDED, IN THE EVENT OF A VICTORY ON THE CREDENTIALS QUESTION, TO GIVE A SPEECH TO THE PARLIAMENT IN JOINT SESSION. IN THE SPEECH HE PLANNED TO (1) THANK THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD SUPPORTED THE GKR, (2) REITERATE HIS OFFER OF UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATION, (3) STRESS THE NECESSITY OF RESOLVING THE KHMER PROBLEM BY NEGOTIATION AND NOT BY FORCE, (4) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UN RESOLUTION, INVITE THE UNSYG TO PHNOM PENH, (5) UNDERSCORE THAT A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION SHOULD NOT RESULT IN PARTITION OF THE COUNTRY AND, (6) STRESS THAT THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE WERE FIGHTING NOT FOR A SINGLE MAN OR GROUP OF MEN BUT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF VALUES DEAR TO THE KHMER PEOPLE.

2. LON NOL ADDED THAT HE WISHES SECRETARY KISSINGER TO KNOW, AS HE (LON NOL) HAD ALREADY SAID TO AMBASSADOR DEAN

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AND CHARGE ENDERS, THAT NEITHER HE NOR HIS ASSOCIATES

WOULD EVER BE THE OBSTACLE TO A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION
RESULTING FROM A DIALOGUE AMONG KHMER.

3. LON NOL ALSO SAID THAT HE KNEW U.S. AUTHORITIES WERE
CONCERNED ABOUT THE INFLUENCE OF HIS BROTHER, LON NON, ON
THE POLITICAL SCENE. LON NOL SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED
THIS MATTER IN DEPTH WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN AND THAT, AS WE
HAVE NOTED, LON NON IS ACTING AS ANY OTHER PRIVATE
CITIZEN. LON NOL SAID HE WISHED TO ASSURE THE USG THAT
HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SEE THAT
THIS SITUATION REMAINED THE SAME.

4. LON NOL EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE LEVEL OF US
AID, INDICATING THAT AFTER FOUR YEARS OF WAR CAMBODIAN
RESOURCES WERE EXHAUSTED AND THAT THE KGR DEPENDED ON
FOREIGN AID. HE SPOKE OF THE NEED PARTICULARLY FOR
MUNITIONS, AND FOR RICE, AND VENTURED THE ESTIMATE
THAT THE DOLLAR FIGURE CONTAINED IN THE SENATE FY 75
BILL WOULD NOT SUFFICE. HE SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED
GREATLY THE PRESIDENT'S COURAGE IN FAVORING A CONTINUING
RESOLUTION OVER THE AID LEVEL PROPOSED BY THE SENATE.

5. LON NOL ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY REQUESTING THAT
HIS REGARDS AND THANKS FOR STRONG USG SUPPORT BE
TRANSMITTED TO BOTH THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT.

6. DURING THE CONVERSATION MILLER STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE
USG ATTACHED TO A FAVORABLE OUTCOME ON THE CREDENTIALS
VOTE. HE STATED THAT WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE FULL
COOPERATION AMONG THE GKR AND FRIENDLY ASIAN COUNTRIES
AND THAT WE WERE SUPPORTING FULLY THIS EFFORT. MILLER
ALLUDED IN THIS REGARD TO THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION
WITH LONG BORET IN NEW YORK. MILLER ASSURED LON NOL
THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY WERE FOLLOWING THE
KHMER PROBLEM VERY CLOSELY AND WERE FIRM IN THEIR
SUPPORT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC IN ITS MILITARY EFFORTS
AND ITS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SEE A NEGOTIATED
SOLUTION. HE ALSO NOTED THE USG WAS DETERMINED TO DO
WHAT IT COULD TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE LEVELS OF AID TO
THE GKR.

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DEAN

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